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of the Prince of Denmark is to the play of Hamlet. Language lives in sound, and the study of modern languages is the study of spoken tongues.

He then proceeded to read his address on "Phonetics," which has appeared in the *Publications* of the Association, vol. v, pp. 23-32.

The next communication was presented by Dr. MARION D. LEARNED (Johns Hopkins University) on

7. "The Saga of Walter of Aquitaine,"

and the discussion on this paper was opened by Dr. KUNO FRANCKE (Harvard University), who said:

Mr. President, if in calling upon me to open this discussion, you meant to give me an opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. LEARNED for the information given in the paper, I am very glad to testify for my part, that I derived a great deal of instruction from it. I am sorry, however, that my acquaintance with the subject is too slight to allow me to dwell at any length on that point which Dr. LEARNED seemed to lay most stress upon—the ethnological import and purport of the Saga. I hope that Dr. WOOD will make some remarks upon this point; and I should only like to ask a few questions which were suggested to me by reading WILHELM MEYER'S Notes on the "Waltharius." There are two points on which I hope Dr. LEARNED will give us some more information, both of them connected especially with the "Waltharius" by EKKEHARD. First, I would like to ask Dr. LEARNED whether he thinks that the "Waltharius" was translated from the German or was an original Latin production? This is a point of a great deal of importance, because, if this work is nothing but a translation, then its value for German mythology would be enhanced. If it was an original production in Latin, then of course the classical examples would be likely to have interfered with the pureness of the German tradition. WILHELM MEYER, I think, holds it as an original Latin production, on account of the unity of the conception; but I must confess that I was not fully convinced of this by his argument. The second point is the relation of the "Waltharius" to PRUDENTIUS, also suggested by W. MEYER. This scholar has shown that PRUDENTIUS has had a great influence upon the language of the "Waltharius," for a good many phrases are borrowed from PRUDENTIUS; and on the ground of this dependence in style, MEYER also conjectures that one of the most important incidents of the plot, namely, the series of single combats between Waltharius and Gunther's vassals, was suggested by PRUDENTIUS' 'Battle between the Virtues and the Vices.' I would like to ask Dr. LEARNED'S opinion about this. It is quite an important point, because, if that series of combats was really suggested by the combat of the vices and virtues, then there would be no German tradition in it.

Dr. LEARNED:—I am glad that Dr. FRANCKE has referred to the points which could not be presented in the short time allotted to me; altogether, they fall within the scope of my treatment. As regards the original of the "Waltharius," the case seems to be this: There was given to EKKEHARD I., as a pupil, an original "Waltharius" story, which was a German legend. I think this is proved beyond all question. It is clear to my mind, at least, that there was current among the people a German legend of Walther of Aquitaine.

Now, in regard to the second part. It has been suggested that the style of the "Waltharius" has similarities not only to PRUDENTIUS but to VIRGIL. This fact is easily explained as a conscious or unconscious imitation, either of the pupil EKKEHARD I. who wrote the original poem or of the reviser EKKEHARD IV., or possibly both. These traces of Virgilian and Prudentian style are to be regarded as natural imitations of the pupil or pedagogue.

Dr. HENRY WOOD (Johns Hopkins University):—I believe that the plan of the paper, vindicating as it does a historical basis for the "Waltharius Saga," is sound. The tendency in that direction is at present felt throughout the study of Germanic Mythology. Of course, there are extremes in this direction, an example of one such being the attempt of SCHIERENBERG, in Frankfort, to persuade scholars that the Norse Sagas are nothing more than covert and mystical reminiscences of the great Germanic contest with Rome. I do not think that VIGFUSSON, in his 'Sigfred-Arminius' and other papers, published shortly before his death, succeeded in making out the identity of the two heroic figures, but that hardly belongs to this question, because the parallelism of the two characters is so remarkable that they could have been united, and are undoubtedly united in the popular imagination as ideally rated, and consequently as ideally the same. HEINZEL's plea as to the identity of Hagen and Aëtius (*Sitzungsberichte der Wienerakad.* cix, 671 ff.) is hardly convincing, though supported by a greater mass of historical material. A further argument, to which Dr. LEARNED had no occasion to refer, but with which I have no doubt he is familiar—the argument concerning the identity of the West Gothic queen Brunhild with the Brunhilde of the Nibelungen Cycle—is a most promising one, and has a future, whether any complete identity be established or not.

Dr. HENNEMAN:—I wish to say only a word or two. The writer gives us a translation in old English that was discovered in Copenhagen two years ago by Mr. STEVENS, who had the fragments put together arbitrarily. Several learned scholars have doubted in reference to the Sequence. I see the gentleman has retained the Sequence. I would like to ask whether his researches confirmed this position or not. It is a point in which I formerly had occasion to be interested.

Dr. LEARNED:—I took this Sequence because the fragment is usually published in that order. The order of the fragments will be discussed in detail in the paper.

The next communication was presented by Prof. CHARLES H. GRANDGENT (Boston), on

8. "Vowel measurements,"*

and Professor BELL being called on to give his views of the subject treated by Prof. GRANDGENT, made the following remarks :

Mr. President, I wish to make a few observations on this paper. I commence by saying that the idea of absolute measurements for the mouth cavities is altogether new. I am not aware that this has ever been carried out before. I do not know how far it may prove of utility, because there is a grand maxim that—"that which is best administered is best."—Now, it may prove in teaching pupils, that this plan of measurement may be capable of accurate application ; in the meantime, I do not know, sir ; I have been during all my experience guided entirely by the ear. From long association, when I hear a sound, I know by the quality of the sound, the organ that mainly is affected in its production. Whether another student would arrive at different, or more reliable results by accurate measurements, I am not prepared to say. At all events the matter is full of interest. So far as developments go, I see a perfect coincidence between the results from auricular observation and the results of this real measurement. I don't know that I need take up your time with further remarks. I am much interested in seeing this experiment and shall follow its developments with increasing interest, I have no doubt ; but in practice I shall remain satisfied with the results obtained by the ear. I do not see that measurements of the mouth could be of service to pupils, unless, it may be, in self-investigation. I do not in the meantime, at least, see how a teacher can apply such measurements in the mouth of a pupil, so as to direct his pronunciation.

Mr. SPANHOOF :—Mr. President, I am glad to have been able to listen to Professor GRANDGENT's very instructive paper. I had seen a short extract of it and knew in a measure what to expect ; but I would like to say that my expectations have been not only fulfilled but far surpassed. His careful exposition of the vowels of his own dialect, of course, I cannot discuss ; he would have to call upon other gentlemen from Boston. I also think his method is beyond my discussion. I would like to apply it myself before discussing it. I think it is exceedingly ingenious and can only be helpful in every respect to the further investigation of the subject of vowel sounds in general. Prof. GRANDGENT is perfectly right in insisting upon the necessity of correct and scientific methods in investigating and examining the

*In the absence of Professor TH. W. HUNT (Princeton College), the heading of the paper presented by him, entitled "Independent Literary Judgment," and put down as No. 1, of the Fourth General Session, was omitted.¹ For a syllabus of this paper, see Appendix II, at the end of these *Proceedings*.